

2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

Tab	Action	Option	Version
113	5	A	1

Budget Action Title: Refocusing and prioritizing DON's community outreach and engagement functions.

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Clark; Conlin; O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Christa Valles

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
11/12/2010	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests the Executive evaluate the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) community outreach and engagement functions and the resources used to support them. This evaluation should result in a report that does the following:

1. Identifies new approaches for implementing community outreach and engagement activities given that fewer resources are available for these activities;
2. Determines DON's most value-added community outreach and engagement activities that help strengthen communication and understanding between the City and neighborhoods and are most effective in engaging people who are unfamiliar with navigating city bureaucracy; and
3. Identifies options for how DON can best support other city departments in working with the community to conduct outreach and implement projects (this piece should be done in cooperation with other city departments);
4. Prioritizes the roles and responsibilities of the Neighborhood District Coordinators (NDCs) based on the responses to # 1, 2, and 3 above;
5. Determines whether the Executive needs to realign DON's 2011- 2012 departmental resources to help implement its primary mission, i.e. community-building and engagement, and if so, how it should be done.

As part of its evaluation, the Executive should solicit feedback from the public using a variety of mediums, such as community meetings, online surveys, and focus groups. The Executive should seek feedback from existing stakeholder groups as well as the broader public that may be unaware of DON's services and activities.

While the Executive is carrying out this evaluation, it should provide briefings to the Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee on its progress and interim results.

Background

Since the budget process does not allow adequate time to evaluate the impacts of the Executive's decision to eliminate six NDC positions, Council is restoring three of the six NDC positions. This will result in a total of ten NDC positions funded in 2011- 2012.

While the Executive is conducting the evaluation requested in this SLI, Council expects DON will reallocate the NDC resources appropriated in the 2011- 2012 budget to ensure all thirteen of the City's Neighborhood Districts will continue to be served by the NDC's, albeit at a reduced level.

Council expects that any options proposed by the Executive for reorganizing or reprioritizing the work of the NDCs and DON generally will be sustainable and based upon existing resources appropriated within DON's 2011- 2012 budget.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Seattle Public Utilities & Neighborhoods Committee

Date Due to Council: July 1, 2011